Death of inmates in Central jails

†1152. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards deaths of inmates in various Central jails of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained reasons behind such deaths;

(c) if so, whether National Human Rights Commission has submitted any report in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (b) "Prisons" is a state subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) As per the guidelines issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in 1993, all the State Governments/Union Territories are under obligation to report every death whether in police custody or in judicial custody within 24 hours of its occurrence irrespective of the cause of death of the deceased. The Commission calls for reports to find out if there is any omission or commission on the part of a public servant, which may have resulted in violation of human rights of the deceased. During the last three years 393 deaths in police custody and 4425 deaths in judicial custody were reported to NHRC by the State Governments/Union Territories. However, a large percentage of intimations received relate to natural deaths. During the period from 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2007, the Commission has recommended interim relief/disciplinary action in 24 proven cases of custodial violence in police custody and 23 cases in judicial custody.

Naxalism and militancy in NE States

†1153. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of terrorism, naxalism and militancy are still going on in North-Eastern States;

(b) whether Government have succeeded in checking the rise in the incidents of terrorism in various States during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) North Eastern States continue to suffer from militancy but no naxal violence has come to notice.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) The number of violent incidents in 2006 was at the same level as that of 2005. However, during the current year till 31st July, 2007 compared to relevant period in 2006, there has been some increase in violence. This is primarily due to the step-up in violent activities by ULFA in Assam and Meitie outfits in Manipur.

Documentary film on the occasion of 150th Anniversary of India's struggle for independence

†1154. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make some special documentary film on the occasion of 150th anniversary of struggle for independence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the progress made so far to make this documentary film?

The MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes Sir, the Government proposes to make some documentary films on the occasion of 150th anniversary of First War of Independence, 1857. Some documentary films have been made to commemorate India's struggle for independence.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the Statement.

Statement

Film on 150th Anniversary of first war of Independence, 1857

1. On the occasion of anniversary of Quit India Movement, Films Division produced a film on Quit India movement for Doordarshan which was telecast on 8.8.2007.

2. On occasion of Independence Day, Films Division has produced a film "Freedom And Progress" from the material of its archive showing all the Prime Ministers since India's independence explaining their policies and hoisting the flag at Red Fort. The film was telecast on Doordarshan on 15th August, 2007.

3. Film on Gandhiji in South Africa has been completed.

4. Films Division has covered the function on commemorating 150th anniversary of the First War of Independence in New Delhi on 10th May, 2007 at Meerut, Red Fort, Vijay Chowk, etc. and a documentary of 20 mins. duration is being produced for theatrical release. The film is presently at editing stage.

5. Film on Gandhiji and Non-Violence, Gandhiji's influence on World Community etc. for telecast on Doordarshan. The film will also be released in the theatrical circuit of Films Division. The film is at editing stage.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.